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Siam Bioscience

Siam Bioscience Company, Ltd. (Thai: สยามไบโอไซเอนซ์) is a Thai drug manufacturer,[1] owned by King Maha Vajiralongkorn.[2]

In 2009, the project started with a partnership between CPB Equity, subsidiary of Crown Property Bureau in the reign of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and a medical human resource and pharmaceutical technology supporter's Mahidol University.[3] Investing around 2,000 million baht, the project proposes were bio-pharmaceutical product research and producing Thai drugs to reduce the dependence on imported drugs.

The first chair of the board and the key man driving the project was Sanoh Unakul, one of Siam Cement Group's directors.[4] Apiporn Pasawat, former managing director of SCG Chemical, and Songpon Deechongkit, have been CEO and managing director from the beginning.[5]

In 2012, Thailand Board of Investment subsidized Siam Bioscience for 427.50 million baht.[6]

Siam Bioscience

Native name	สยามไบโอไซเอนซ์
Company type	Private
Industry	Biopharmaceutical Pharmaceutical Medical devices
Founded	17 August 2009
Founder	Bhumibol Adulyadej
Key people	Apiporn Pasawat (CEO) Songpon Deechongkit (Managing director)
Revenue	▲ THB302 million (2020) THB158 million (2019)
Owner	Vajiralongkorn
Number of employees	125 (2012)
Subsidiaries	Inno Biocosmed
Website	siambioscience.com (https://www.siambioscience.com)

Business partnership

Cuba's Cimab

In 2017, the company was in 70/30 joint venture with Cuba's Abinis (Cimab) from Center of Molecular Immunology to produce and export licensed drugs. Abinis received special tax privileges such as a ten-year tax reduction with help from Thailand Board of Investment.[7] The plant construction started in 2011 and completed in 2013, it is able to produce biopharmaceutical for anaemia treating and reducing side effects of chemo.[8]

Controversy

Lèse-majesté suit

In January 2021, Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit was charged with lèse-majesté, a strict defamation law, after criticizing Prayut Chan-o-cha government mismanagement of COVID-19 vaccination by relying too much on AstraZeneca vaccine which Siam Bioscience, The Police charged him for publishing Jan 18 Facebook Live stream.[9] Later, Puttipong Punnakanta filed the charge through Technology Crime Suppression Division and the court ordered taking the video down.[10][11]

Later in August 2021, Thanathorn faced two more lèse-majesté charges for the same act.[12]

Subsidy

Aside from BOI subsidy earlier in 2012, in October 2020, Prayut Chan-o-cha led's government allocated 600 million baht budget to Siam Bioscience through the National Vaccine Institute to develop capacity to produce AstraZeneca vaccine.[13] Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit criticized a transparency in the subsidy for for-profit company.

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